Remarks

Status of Claims

Claims 1-9 and 11-20 are pending in the application. Claims 1-9 and 11-20 stand rejected.

Drawing Objections

The Examiner has objected to drawings Figs. 1-5 under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The Examiner contends that the features of claim 15, "wherein a free end of the spring contact is movably received between injection molded webs", are not shown in Figs. 1-5 and must be shown or cancelled. The Applicants respectfully disagree with Examiner. The Examiner's attention is directed to paragraph [0024] of the printed publication, in light of Figure 1, which clearly shows a spring contact 3 having a central portion rigidly connected to the armature 5 and is mounted such that the armature 5 may move the spring contact 3, wherein the spring contact 3 and the armature thereby form a subassembly, and a free end of the spring contact 3 is movably received between webs 2, 2a. Since the claimed features are clearly shown, reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection is requested.

Claim Rejections

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-9 and 11-20 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 4,185,163 issued to Helmet Schedele (hereinafter referred to as

"Schedele") in view of U.S. Patent 6,252,479 issued to Kern et al. (hereinafter referred to as "Kern").

The Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's finding that the Schedele-Kern combination renders claim 1 obvious, because the Schedele-Kern combination does not teach or suggest each and every element of claim 1, especially as amended.

The Examiner relies on Schedele disclosing a magnet system for a relay (see Figures 5 and 6) comprising a core (Figure 5, center portion of multi-component yoke 25 through the coil) partially enclosed by a coil 24, a yoke (left portion of multi-component yoke 25) having a first yoke leg attached to a first end of the core (left portion of multi-component yoke 25 perpendicular to the core) and a second yoke leg extending parallel to the core (left portion of multi-component yoke 25 above the coil 24), the second yoke leg having an armature mounting portion (Figure 5) formed on an upper side of the second yoke leg remote from the coil, a pole (right portion of the multi-component yoke 25) having a first pole leg (right portion of the multi-component yoke 25 perpendicular to the core) connected to a second end of the core and a second pole leg extending parallel to the core (right portion of the multi-component yoke 25 above the coil 24), the second pole leg having an armature 26 is mounted on the armature mounting portion, a working air gap is formed between a coil-side armature face and the upper surface of the second pole leg (figure 5), and a fixed contact carrier 31 with a fixed contact 29. Indeed, the Applicants agree with the Examiner's assertion that Schedele fails to teach that the magnet system is extrusion coated with a plastic material, the coil, the yoke, the pole, and the fixed contact carrier being embedded in the plastic material.

Claim 1 has been amended to further clarify the present invention, requiring, inter alia, a magnet system for a relay comprising a core partially enclosed by a coil, a yoke having a first yoke leg attached to a first end of the core and a second yoke leg extending parallel to the core, the second yoke leg having an armature mounting portion formed on an upper side of the second yoke leg remote from the coil, a pole having a first pole leg connected to a second end of the core and a second pole leg extending parallel to the core, the second pole leg having an upper surface substantially aligned with the armature mounting portion such that when an armature is mounted on the armature mounting portion, a working air gap is formed between a coil-side armature face and the upper surface of the second pole leg, a fixed contact carrier with a fixed contact, *the fixed contact carrier having side portions that hold the fixed contact carrier in pockets of the coil*, and the magnet system is extrusion coated with a plastic material, the coil, the yoke, the pole, and the fixed contact carrier being embedded in the plastic material. In the least, Schedele does not teach nor suggest a *fixed contact carrier having side portions that hold the fixed contact carrier in pockets of the coil.* The Examiner's attention is directed to paragraph [0020] of the printed publication which describes a second pole leg 6a and optionally offset therefrom, a fixed contact carrier 9. *Side portions 9b hold the fixed contact carrier 9 in pockets 13a of the side arm 13 of the coil body 12* and the fixed contact carrier 9 is integrally connected to a terminal pin 9 a via a terminal portion. The fixed contact 8 is arranged parallel to surfaces of the armature mounting portion 7 a and the second pole leg 6a. *The fixed contact 8, however, is arranged closer to the core in a lower plane to optimize installation space.*

According to the Examiner, Schedele teaches a magnet system for a relay having a fixed contact carrier 31 with a fixed contact 29. However, the contact springs, as well as a central contact 29, are secured on the magnet system by insulating blocks 30 and 31. Schedele cannot

be held to teach or suggest a fixed contact carrier having side portions that hold the fixed contact carrier in pockets of the coil, which is arranged closer to the core in a lower plane to optimize installation space. That which Schedele lacks is not taught or suggested by Kern. Therefore, claim 1, nor those that depend therefrom, namely claims 2-9, cannot be held obvious in light of the Schedele-Kern combination. Reconsideration and removal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is requested.

Claim 11, stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable by Schedele in view of Kern. The Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's finding that the Schedele-Kern combination renders claim 1 obvious, because the Schedele-Kern combination does not teach or suggest each and every element of claim 1, especially as amended.

Claim 11, has been amended to further clarify the present invention, requiring, inter alia, an electromagnetic relay comprising a magnet system having a core body with a core partially enclosed by a coil, a yoke having a first yoke leg attached to a first end of the core and a second yoke leg extending parallel to the core having an armature mounting portion, a pole having a first pole leg connected to a second end of the core and a second pole leg extending parallel to the core; the magnet system having a fixed contact arranged on a fixed contact carrier substantially aligned with the second pole leg, the fixed contact carrier being offset in a direction of the core and arranged in the coil body, *the fixed contact carrier having side portions that hold the fixed contact carrier in pockets of the coil*, and the magnet system is extrusion coated with a plastic material, the coil, the yoke, the pole, and the fixed contact carrier being embedded in the plastic material. As discussed above in the claim 1 remarks, Schedele, in the least, fails to teach or suggest a *fixed contact carrier having side portions that hold the fixed contact carrier in pockets of the coil.* That which Schedele lacks is not taught or suggested by Kern. Therefore, claim 11,

and those that depend therefrom, namely claims 12-18, cannot be held obvious in light of the Schedele-Kern combination. Reconsideration and removal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is requested.

Claim 19, stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable by Schedele in view of Kern. Claim 19 is amended similar to claim 1. As discussed above, the Schedele-Kern combination does not, in the least, teach or suggest a *fixed contact carrier having side portions that hold the fixed contact carrier in pockets of the coil*. Therefore, independent claim 19, and dependent claim 20, cannot be held obvious for the same reasons. Reconsideration and removal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is requested.

Conclusion

For all of the foregoing reasons and in view of the foregoing amendments, the Applicants respectfully contend that the application is now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request entry of the foregoing amendments, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-9 and 11-20 and issuance of a Patent for the subject invention. If the Examiner cares to discuss anything presented here to further prosecution of this application, he is invited to contact the undersigned Attorney for the Applicants. Please charge any additional requisite fees relating to this amendment and response to Deposit Account No. 501581.

Respectfully submitted,

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